Course Title

German Language, Intermediate I

Course Number
GERM-UA 9003 D01

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Lecturer Contact Information
Julia Buchholz
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Course Details
MTR 12:15pm to 1:30pm

Location
Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class. Please double check whether your class takes place at the Academic Center (BLAC) or at St. Agnes (SNTA).

Prerequisites
You have taken GERM-UA9002001 Elementary German II at NYU and received a passing grade; or you have taken two semesters or the equivalent of introductory German at another university and have been awarded transfer credit for the course; or you have been referred to this course after a placement test or interview with the Language Coordinator.

Units earned
4

Course Description
Intermediate German I is the first part of a two-semester-long intermediate sequence. You will continue to study grammar, vocabulary and other aspects of language. The class is almost entirely taught in German and emphasizes the language skills necessary to communicate effectively in a foreign language – speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and listening. During the course, you will engage with a large variety of topical subjects from German culture and history as well as films, literature and music. This course aims to create a balance between working with intellectually stimulating subjects and practicing the skills needed to communicate in a foreign language. To learn another language requires a great deal of commitment, diligence, discipline, and effort on the part of the student. To succeed in this course, please be prepared to spend up to one and a half to two hours of independent study per classroom session.
Course Objective
This course covers the third part of a four-part German sequence. Together, these courses (Elementary I and II; Intermediate I and II) should help you develop a level of proficiency in German that will enable you to study abroad in German-speaking countries, to pursue advanced study of German in the US, or to use German for travel, leisure and work. At the end of Intermediate German II (or Intensive Intermediate German), you will be prepared to successfully take a proficiency exam.

Assessment Components
Active Participation 200 points
Homework 200 points
Compositions (3 x 50) 150 points
Tests (3 x 50) 150 points
Oral Presentation 100 points
Final exam 200 points

Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

Required Text(s)
Electronic Resources (via NYU Classes / NYU Library)

Grammar book:

Lecture:

Books can be bought at Dussmann in Friedrichstraße 90, where the books are pre-ordered for students.
One copy of each book is kept in the Reading Room of NYU Berlin's Academic Center, for you to read in the center but not to take out.

NYU Berlin Library Catalogue or follow the link on NYU Berlin’s website (Academics/Facilities & Services).

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)
- Grammar Reader, provided by your instructor
- https://quizlet.com
- Genusly is a useful gender marking tool: genusly.com (marks German nouns in different colors according to their gender)

Internet Research Guidelines
On your computer, smart phone, or tablet you can use the following authentic resources as websites or apps in order to stay up-to-date:
- Spiegel online (German news magazine)
- Stern (German news magazine)
- Die Zeit (German weekly newspaper)
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung/FAZ (daily newspaper)
- Süddeutsche Zeitung (daily newspaper)
- Deutsche Welle (German newscast)
- ARD (German TV station with an extensive media library)
- ZDF (German TV station with an extensive media library)

German News, Online courses, Audiobooks, Podcasts:
Deutsche Welle
Young Germany
Simsalabim – Phonetik Online

These are all free and a great way to practice your German (reading, audio files, videos) wherever you are.

**Additional Required Equipment**
You will be asked to use a *dictionary*. You can rely on the online mono- and bilingual *dictionaries from Pons*.

We will use *Quizlet* for vocabulary learning:

**Semesterplan**
*(subject to change)*

**Week 1 – [3 Sept – 6 Sept]**
*Dickes B* – Introduction; expectations, first impressions of Berlin

**Content/Communication Goals**
Introduction: get to know each other; classroom policies
Talk about your first impressions of Berlin and about your expectations; read and discuss texts about life in Berlin; listen to a song about Berlin

Song: *Dickes B* by Seeed
Reading: *Am Puls der Stadt* (Deutsch Perfekt 06/16); *Magisches Berlin* (Deutsch Perfekt 08/18)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: reflexive verbs; verbs with prepositions and da/wo-compounds

**Week 2 – [10 Sept – 13 Sept]**
*Fairytales and the Brothers Grimm*

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read a fairytale of the Brothers Grimm and an article about the Brothers Grimm; talk about childhood memories and write your own fairytale or an autobiographical text

Reading: *Der Wolf und die sieben Geißlein*; *Ein Buch voll Märchen* (Deutsch Perfekt 12/12)

**Grammar Topics**
Review: perfect and imperfect tense; review: temporal clauses (*als, wenn, wann*); word order

**Week 3 – [17 Sept – 20 Sept]**

**Hochschule oder Duales System – the German education system**

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about and describe a diagram of the German education system; learn phrases for oral and written discussions and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a competitive education system

Reading: *Ausbildung in Deutschland* (Begegnungen B1+ S.16/17); *Nicht versetzt* by Peter Weiss

**Grammar Topics**
Review: comparative & superlative; infinitive clauses

**Week 4 – [24 Sept – 27 Sept]**

**Eine leere Flasche** – The bilingual author Yoko Tawada

**Content/Communication Goals**
Read and discuss texts from the Japanese author Yoko Tawada; prepare the lecture and talk with Yoko Tawada; write a text interpretation


Watching: *Schriftstellerportrait Yoko Tawada* (SWR, 20.01.18)
https://swrmediathek.de/player.htm?show=6a76ad20-fe0a-11e7-a5ff-005056a12b4c

**Grammar Topics:**
relative clauses and relative pronouns

**Requirement:**
Thursday, 27 Sep: Composition 1

**Week 5 – [1 Oct – 4 Oct]**

**Zeche und Schrebergarten** – regions in Germany

**Content/Communication Goals**
Learn about other German regions and their cultures; talk about the history of a German region (Ruhrgebiet); write a description of a region

Reading: *Arbeit im Wandel* (Studio Express B1)
Grammar Topics
Review: prepositions with dative/accusative

Requirement:
Thursday, 4 Oct: Test 1
Thursday, 4 Oct, 7:30 – 9pm: Lecture with Yoko Tawada.
Yoko Tawada, a popular author of contemporary German literature, will read and discuss selected texts from her books. Tawada writes in both languages, Japanese and German, making her an exophonic writer.
Your participation is required. To compensate for this, there is no German class on Monday, 29 Oct.

Week 6 – [8 Oct – 11 Oct]
{Hasse, bisse, kannse} und {Das Wunder von Bern}

Content/Communication Goals
Read a text about Ruhrdeutsch and learn about German dialects; watch the film {Das Wunder von Bern}; write a film review

Reading: Hasse, bisse, kannse – Dem Ruhrpott seine Ruhrpottsprache (DW); Dialekt verstehen (Deutsch Perfekt 11/17); So sprechen die Berliner (Deutsch Perfekt 08/18)

Watching: {Das Wunder von Bern} (2003, Sönke Wortmann)

Grammar Topics
Review: changing prepositions; n-declension

Week 7 – [15 Oct – 18 Oct]
Wurst und Zwiebelkuchen – German dishes and recent food trends

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about regional dishes in Germany; write a recipe; read an article about and discuss current food trends

Reading: {Guten Appetit} (Mittelpunkt B1 neu 2A); {Unverpackt} (Deutsch Perfekt 3/15)

Watching: {Essen der Zukunft} (Video Thema DW 02/17)

Grammar Topics
Review: adjective declension; review: subjunctive II (present)

Requirement:
Thursday, 18 Oct: Composition 2
Excursion TBA

22 Oct – 28 Oct Fall Break – No Class

Week 8 – [29 Oct – 1 Nov]
Art and protest movement
Content/Communication Goals
Talk about works of art and learn about Expressionism in Germany; explore the East Side Gallery; discuss graffiti as a form of art; write a description about a piece of art

Reading: Die Kunst und die Revolution (Neue Blickwinkel Kap 4/1); Graffiti und der Künstlerische Widerstand (Neue Blickwinkel Kap 4/3)

Grammar Topics
Present and past participles as adjectives

No German class on Monday, 29 Oct as compensation for the lecture!

Week 9 – [5 Nov – 8 Nov]
Das Brot

Content/Communication Goals
Read the short story Das Brot by Wolfgang Borchert; learn about everyday life in Germany after WW II; discuss the situation nowadays; write a textinterpretation

Reading: Das Brot by Wolfgang Borchert

Grammar Topics
temporal clauses (während, seit, bevor, bis)

Requirement:
Tue, 6 Nov: Test 2
Thur, 8 Nov: German Excursion day

Week 10 – [12 Nov – 15 Nov]
Mauerbau and Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee (1)

Content/Communication Goals
Talk about historical events; listen to and watch personal testimonies of people of the former DDR; start reading the novel Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee by the contemporary author Thomas Brussig about a German teenager and his everyday life in East Berlin; summarize a plot and characterize main figures

Reading: Grenzen überwinden (Aspekte B2 neu K8 M4); Easy Reader version of Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee by Thomas Brussig (2003)

Watching: Ein Traum wird wahr (Aspekte B2 neu K8)

Grammar Topics
final clauses; review: negation

Week 11 – [19 Nov – 22 Nov]
Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee (2) and walls nowadays
Content/Communication Goals
Finish reading of Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee; learn more about the fall of the wall and its impacts on German society; watch the movie Sonnenallee and compare it with the novel;

Song: Wir sind wir by Paul van Dyk & Peter Heppner
Reading: Easy Reader version of Am kürzeren Ende der Sonnenallee by Thomas Brussig (2003)
Watching: Sonnenallee (Leander Haußmann, 1999)

Grammar Topics
Passive with werden und sein

Requirement:
Thursday, 22 Nov: Composition 3

Week 12 – [26 Nov – 29 Nov]
Migration and integration

Content/Communication Goals
Learn about the history of migration in Germany and read portraits of migrants in Germany ("Wir neuen Deutschen"); learn how to write a formal email

Reading: Erfolgsgeschichte (Deutsch Perfekt 04/18); text excerpts of Wir neuen Deutschen by Alice Bota, Khuê Pham und Özlem Topçu

Grammar Topics
Passive with modal verbs

Requirement:
Thursday, 29 Nov: Test 3

Week 13 – [3 Dec – 6 Dec]
Welcome to Germany – diversity in Germany

Content/Communication Goals
learn about the history of German films; watch the film Almanya and scenes from Als Paul über das Meer kam; read excerpts of Neben mir ist noch Platz written by Paul Maar and discuss social and political developments

Reading: Deutschland, Deine Filme (Deutsch Perfekt 3/17); text excerpts of Neben mir ist noch Platz (Paul Maar, 1993)

Watching: Almanya – Willkommen in Deutschland (Yasemin Şamdereli, 2011); Als Paul über das Meer kam (Jakob Preuss, 2017)

Grammar Topics
Review: future tense

Requirement:
Oral Presentation
Excursion TBA

**Week 14 – [10 Dec – 13 Dec]**

*Welche Farbe hat Berlin – reflections on life in Berlin*

**Content/ Communication Goals**
Read excerpts of *Welche Farbe hat Berlin* written by David Wager and reflect on the semester and life in Berlin
Reading: Mülltüte, Oderberger, Ecke Schönhauser (in *Welche Farbe hat Berlin*, 2011) by David Wagner

**Grammar Topics**
Review

**Requirement:**
Oral Presentation

**Week 15 – [17 Dec – 20 Dec]**
Final Examination: Tuesday, Dec 18, 10:00am to 12:00pm

**Classroom Etiquette**
Be kind to one another, have fun and speak in German. Be punctual and please use your cell phones only as a dictionary.

**Suggested Co-Curricular Activities**
Please use the opportunity to take part in the Berlin Buddies Program and the Tutoring Program at NYU Berlin.

**Your Lecturer**
Julia Buchholz grew up near Düsseldorf and after teaching German at a Korean university in Seoul, South Korea, for three years, she came to Berlin in 2012. Since 2013, she has been teaching German courses at NYU. Julia holds an MA in Translation and Teaching German as Foreign Language from Bonn University. Her academic interests include intercultural communication, language learning and teaching methods. Julia lives with her family in Pankow.
Academic Policies

Grade Conversion
Your lecturer may use one of the following scales of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A = 94-100 or 4.0  
A- = 90-93 or 3.7  
B+ = 87-89 or 3.3  
B = 84-86 or 3.0  
B- = 80-83 or 2.7  
C+ = 77-79 or 2.3  
C = 74-76 or 2.0  
C- = 70-73 or 1.7  
D+ = 67-69 or 1.3  
D = 65-66 or 1.0  
F = below 65 or 0

Attendance Policy
Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in courses that meet only once per week. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. Your professor or NYU Berlin’s administration may ask you to present a doctor’s note or an exceptional permission from NYU Berlin’s Director or Wellness Counselor as proof. Emergencies or other exceptional circumstances must be presented to the Director. Doctor's notes need to be submitted to the Academics Office, who will inform your professors. Doctor's notes need to be from a local doctor and carry a signature and a stamp. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially, please approach NYU Berlin's Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. In German Language classes two or three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2% deduction of the overall grade. Three unexcused absences in one content course and five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Being more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence. Furthermore, your professor is entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Please note that for classes involving a field trip, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time at the announced meeting point.

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note and submit it to the Academics Office; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F and no make-up assessment is scheduled. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or not, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with the work that was missed.
Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays
Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer AND NYU Berlin's Academics Office in writing via e-mail one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays.

Late Submission of Work
1. Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
2. Late work should be submitted in person to the lecturer or to the Academics Office, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.
3. Work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays), unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of NYU Berlin's administration), in which case the 2 points per day deductions start counting from the day the extended deadline has passed.
4. Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 days (excluding weekends and public or religious holidays) following the submission date receives an F.
5. End of semester essays must be submitted on time.
6. Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.
7. Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website for further information.

Plagiarism Policy
The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism. Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles.

NYU Berlin takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.
It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies.